



# One Voice Brevard

1 March 2026



## Navigating a World Not Built For Me Life with Cerebral Palsy

by Sarah Goldman, Director of Public Policy and Youth Initiatives, Florida Independent Living Council, Inc.

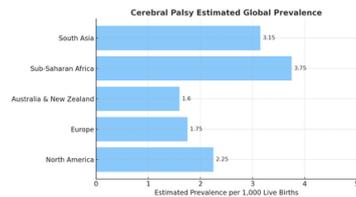
Cerebral Palsy is a lifelong disability that impacts how I move through the world. While facing multiple personal and systemic challenges throughout my life, I had to learn to advocate for myself. My advocacy and resilience were not built by choice; it was built in response to a world that too often overlooks people with disabilities.

Living with Cerebral Palsy means constantly navigating spaces that were not designed for me. It means advocating for access, accommodations, and even dignity in environments where inclusion should already exist.

To me, resilience is not about “overcoming” disability or inspiring others. It’s about refusing to shrink myself to make others comfortable. It’s about insisting that inclusion and accessibility are not privileges, but equal rights. Having Cerebral Palsy has taught me to be persistent and unafraid to take up space and use my voice—even when doing so is uncomfortable.

With March being Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month, I hope we move beyond awareness and toward action—listening to disabled voices, dismantling barriers, and building a world that is inclusive for all of us!

### Global Perspective



Around 18 million people worldwide live with cerebral palsy

\*Data from NCHStats.com



- In this newsletter you will find:
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  - Doug Flutie 5K Run Wrap Up
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# Flutie 5K Run for Autism Wrap Up

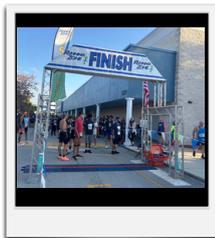
by Dr. Joseph A. Werner, Director, Brevard Autism Coalition



On behalf of everyone in the Brevard Autism Coalition and One Voice Coalition Florida, we would like to express how grateful we are for all of the support and trust shown by the Brevard Community. The 17th annual Brevard Autism Coalition's Flutie Foundation 5K run/walk at the Schechter Center in Satellite Beach was an extremely successful event, and brought together the Brevard community for fun and fitness. We had an outstanding turnout this year, welcoming a remarkable number of 652 race registrations. There was great music, a nondenominational prayer from Chaplain Daisey, Mrs. and Miss Palm Bay, Florida, were there handing out finishing medals, and Doug Flutie was there with his Batmobile, and words of inspiration before running the race. But the best part was the crowd. The crowd was enthusiastic, energetic, and positive. There were plenty of smiles and good cheer as we collectively celebrated ability and capability over disability, valued diversity of thought and feelings, and nurtured the belief that Brevard County is stronger when everyone feels like they belong and are included.

As a reminder, funds raised from the Brevard Autism/Flutie 5K race provide scholarships and cover the costs of the Prevocational Adventure Camp, where 13 young adults learn and practice work skills by setting up the Adventure Coffee Café, as well as Camp-2-Can, our summer camp for children and adolescents with autism and neurodiversity, which begins the first week of June. See flyers for additional details. We are still looking for sponsors for these events. In addition, the BAC and OVCF support free seminars, partner with the Cocoa Village Playhouse for Sensory Sensitive plays in May and June, provide a free golf experience once a month at US 1 golf, advocate for laws and funding with local and state representatives, and provide information and support for people of all ages dealing with autism and related disorders.

We look forward to seeing you at our future events and would like to encourage you to take care of your health and well-being. Save the date **Saturday, February 20th, 2027**, for the 18th annual Brevard Autism/Flutie Foundation run/walk for Autism Awareness, and we encourage you sign up for the ninth annual Run for the Kids Race Challenge (Tooth Trot Race), benefiting Give Kids a Smile, and the Brianna Marie Foundation 5K run supporting prenatal care for medically complex infants.





# Developmental Disability Awareness Month

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice Brevard

Every March, communities across the United States observe Developmental Disability Awareness Month, a tradition first proclaimed in 1987 by President Reagan. The month honors the potential and rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, while challenging the stigma and barriers that have historically limited their opportunities to fully participate in society. It also celebrates the tireless work of leaders like Ed Roberts, Judith Heumann, and Justin Dart Jr., whose advocacy helped shape the disability rights movement, as well as the countless families and self-advocates who continue to fight for inclusion, equity, and justice today.

In Florida, the observance has grown into a critical time for families to advocate for meaningful change, connecting local stories to national milestones, such as the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ongoing fight for community inclusion and equitable services.

Awareness is more than visibility; it is action. Programs like Florida's iBudget Waiver and services through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) are essential for education, therapies, and daily support, yet access and funding are constantly under review. Families meet with legislators, provide testimony, and advocate for stronger investments to ensure these programs are responsive to the real needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

In 2026 alone, over 200 Florida families participated in DD Day at the Capitol, demonstrating that coordinated advocacy can influence decision-making and highlight the importance of inclusion, equity, and safety. Every conversation and meeting strengthens our community's voice and reminds lawmakers that their choices have real-life consequences.

Developmental Disability Awareness Month is more than a celebration — it is a call to action. Florida families are proving that when we advocate together, we can shape policies, protect services, and ensure every individual with a developmental disability has the opportunity to thrive.

| 2026 |     | MARCH |     |     |     |     |  |  |
|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| SUN  | MON | TUE   | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |  |  |
| 1    | 2   | 3     | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |  |  |
| 8    | 9   | 10    | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |  |  |
| 15   | 16  | 17    | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |  |  |
| 22   | 23  | 24    | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |  |  |
| 29   | 30  | 31    |     |     |     |     |  |  |

| State Disability Prevalence Data                        |           |
|---|-----------|
| Est Total State Disability Population (%):              | 13.7%     |
| Est Total State Disability Population (#):              | 3,064,600 |
| Est State Prevalence of Developmental Disabilities (%): | 7.20%     |

\*Florida State Statistics according to NACDD



# DD Day at the Capitol

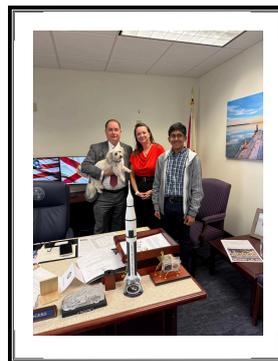
By Nicole Grabner

As a parent of children with developmental disabilities, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Tallahassee is more than a date on the calendar — it is a reminder that our voices matter. Each year, families, self-advocates, and allies gather at the Florida Capitol not just to be seen, but to be heard. This year, we had about 200 family members attend in person (and quite a few attended virtually as well), showing the strength and commitment of our community. We presented orange carnations to legislators and their aides when families met with them. We had a wonderful press conference, which was held in partnership with Senator Davis. And lastly, we had dinner with Director Asztalos, Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

For families like mine, the legislative process is not abstract. We show up because the policies debated inside those chambers shape our children's daily lives in very real and lasting ways.

Funding decisions determine whether therapies continue, whether supports remain stable, and whether our children have real opportunities for inclusion in school, work, and community life. Programs like Florida's iBudget Waiver, which provides essential home- and community-based services, depend on state appropriations and legislative advocacy. When families engage directly with lawmakers, we put faces and stories to the line items on a page. We help decision-makers understand that behind every program is a child learning to communicate, a young adult seeking employment, or a caregiver trying to keep their family whole.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day reminds legislators that inclusion requires action and sustained commitment. It reminds families that advocacy is powerful. And it shows our children that their futures are worth fighting for — not quietly, but proudly, in the halls where decisions are made.



# Open Letter to the Governor and Attorney General

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Ron DeSantis  
Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Attorney General James Uthmeier  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of Florida  
PL-01, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

I am writing to you today as a disability advocate to respectfully urge you to withdraw the State of Florida from participation in Florida vs. Kennedy, Case No. 5:24-CV-00225, particularly with regard to the claim seeking to set aside the Final Rule that protects the rights of people with disabilities to live and receive services in the least restrictive environment.

For decades, people with disabilities were systematically segregated and institutionalized, denied autonomy, and stripped of opportunities to live full lives in their communities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* marked a critical turning point by affirming that unnecessary institutionalization constitutes discrimination and that individuals with disabilities have the right to receive services in integrated, community-based settings whenever appropriate.

The Final Rule at issue in this case is an essential safeguard that helps ensure hard-won civil rights are not eroded. Efforts to set it aside risk undermining community-based services and reviving policies that historically confined people with disabilities to institutional settings, often against their will and to their detriment. Such a regression would be inconsistent with the ADA's mandate, contrary to best practices in disability services, and harmful to individuals, families, and communities across Florida.

From a disability rights and equity perspective, continued participation in this litigation sends a troubling message to Floridians with disabilities: that their right to live, work, and receive services in the most integrated settings may once again be subject to rollback. Florida has the opportunity instead to demonstrate leadership by affirming its commitment to inclusion, self-determination, and community integration.

I respectfully request that you withdraw Florida's involvement in this case and oppose any efforts that would weaken or dismantle protections ensuring people with disabilities can live in the least restrictive environment. Doing so would honor both the letter and the spirit of federal disability civil rights law and help prevent a return to an era when institutionalization was the default rather than the exception.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I hope you will choose a path that continues to protect and advance the rights and dignity of people with disabilities in Florida.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Grabner  
Director, One Voice Brevard  
Board Member, One Voice Coalition  
Micco, FL 32976

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## Night to Shine

Each year, Night to Shine, hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation, creates an unforgettable prom-like experience for individuals with special needs in communities around the world. On one special evening, churches and host sites open their doors to celebrate every guest as a king or queen, complete with a red carpet entrance, cheering volunteers, music, dancing, and heartfelt moments of joy. In Brevard county, we had at least three churches participating in the event, with over three hundred participants!

More than just a celebration, Night to Shine is a powerful reminder that every individual is seen, valued, and worthy of belonging. For families like ours, it is a night when we get to watch our child feel fully accepted and celebrated — and that feeling stays with us long after the music fades.



## Brevard County Schools START Conference



The Brevard County Schools START Conference brings together educators, specialists, and families from across Brevard Public Schools to share strategies that support students with disabilities.

Focused on collaboration and evidence-based practices, the conference equips participants with practical tools to strengthen inclusive classrooms and improve student outcomes.

For families and professionals alike, the START Conference is a valuable opportunity to learn, connect, and ensure every student has the support needed to succeed.

# Representative Maggard

*Thank you!*

On behalf of our family and community, we want to sincerely thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication in helping draft and file legislation to update the legal definition of **Autism** in the Florida statute. While the bill did not move forward as intended this session, your willingness to listen, learn, and take action means more to families like ours than you may realize.

Efforts like yours help bring attention to the evolving understanding of autism and the importance of ensuring laws reflect the needs and realities of individuals and families across our state. We are truly grateful for your advocacy and support.

Thank you again for standing with our community.



## Developmental Disability Awareness

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| B | W | G | J | J | C | D | I | Y | L | D | M | O | P |
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| S | Z | N | P | S | R | S | N | X | V | S | R | N | A |
| C | L | F | U | P | E | C | L | R | X | G | L | S | D |
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| R | S | J | L | N | R | L | W | E | E | A | L | N | D |
| E | K | Z | B | A | A | C | C | W | L | P | O | D | S |
| G | D | Q | R | B | L | U | A | I | X | H | I | R | U |
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| E | C | D | G | I | L | A | C | L | H | I | X | E | O |
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| L | C | N | E | A | Y | F | P | P | C | L | W | M | T |

- CEREBRALPALSY
- DOWNSYNDROME
- IDD
- AUTISM
- ADHD
- SPINABIFIDA
- DYSLEXIA
- DYSGRAPHIA
- DYSCALCULIA
- CAREGIVER
- SUPPORT



# A New Standard for Autism Diagnosis

by Dr. Jennifer Hensley, DNP, CPNP-PC, PMHS, Founder of Amazing Kids Autism

I still remember the mom who sat across from me years ago, clutching her toddler in her lap and whispering, “Did I do something wrong?” Her child wasn’t talking yet. He lined up cars instead of playing with them. He covered his ears when the room grew loud. Somewhere between late-night Google searches and well-meaning advice from strangers, she began to believe his delays were her failures as a parent. I looked at her and said the words I wish every parent could hear on day one: **“Your child is amazing. Nothing about this is your fault. And your child’s future is wide open.”** That moment is why I do this work. People with autism are amazing and it’s time the world knew that.

I believe families deserve timely diagnosis for one simple reason: to maximize freedom and independence for each unique, incredible human. A diagnosis is the first step in truly seeing and understanding a child, and in building a personalized plan that supports their growth while also helping the world better understand what they need to thrive.

## Why Early Diagnosis Changes Everything

When a child’s brain is developing, timing matters. Early identification doesn’t label a child — it unlocks support.

It means:

- ✓ Getting tools instead of guessing
- ✓ Understanding instead of worrying
- ✓ Building confidence instead of fear

Early diagnosis allows families to meet their child where they are — and help them grow into who they’re becoming.

And here’s the truth:

Autism is not a ceiling. It’s a different way of seeing and experiencing the world.

With the right support, children with autism thrive. They build friendships. They learn. They work. They love. They lead. They innovate. They change the world.

But none of that happens when families are stuck waiting.

## The Hidden Crisis: Long Waitlists and Delayed Care

Across the country, families wait 12 to 36 months for an in-person autism evaluation.

Every month of delay means:

- ✗ Missed early intervention windows (often times free resources are missed)
- ✗ Increased family stress
- ✗ Children struggling without understanding
- ✗ Parents questioning themselves



# A New Standard for Autism Diagnosis

(continued)

## The Amazing Kids Virtual Autism Diagnostic Model

At Amazing Kids, we asked a simple question: What if families didn't have to wait years for answers? What if expert autism evaluations could happen:

- ✓ From home
- ✓ With warmth and dignity
- ✓ In a child's natural environment
- ✓ Without sacrificing medical rigor

That question became our mission. Today, Amazing Kids is the leader in virtual autism diagnostics, delivering gold-standard evaluations through secure telemedicine led by trained clinicians who specialize in neurodevelopmental care. And the results? Faster access. Deeper understanding. Better outcomes. Less trauma. And more trust.

## Why Home-Based Evaluations Work Better

Here's something most people don't realize: Children show their truest selves at home. Not in fluorescent-lit clinics, unfamiliar rooms with unfamiliar people, or in intimidating medical environments. At home, children:

- ✓ Play naturally
- ✓ Communicate authentically
- ✓ Feel safe
- ✓ Behave like themselves

Which means we get more accurate data, clearer insights, and better diagnostic confidence. Parents feel more relaxed. Children feel more regulated. Clinicians see real-life functioning. It's not just more convenient. More and more research post-pandemic is showing this method is clinically superior.

## Ready to Take the Next Step?

✨ Parents: Book a virtual autism evaluation with Amazing Kids

📖 Families: Get The Autism Playbook on Amazon

🎓 Everyone: Register for our next Free Autism Playbook Seminar

👩 Nurse Practitioners: Learn how to become certified in virtual autism diagnostics, visit [amazingkidsautism.com](https://amazingkidsautism.com)

## Contact Information:

Jennifer Hensley, DNR, CPNP-PC, PMHS, Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

ph: 321-478-2555

email: [jmcdhensley@amazingkidsautism.com](mailto:jmcdhensley@amazingkidsautism.com)

# Family Care Council Updates

by Nicole Grabner



APD Florida (Agency for Persons With Disabilities) is hosting additional forums in February and March for individuals and families who have received waiver enrollment Offers for the iBudget Florida Waiver. (Standby for a Brevard County date as well as a virtual attendance option!)

These “drop-in” events are designed to give individuals and families who recently received waiver enrollment offers the opportunity to meet with the Agency and the Department of Children and Families (DCF). There has been a concentrated effort made to move people from the pre-enrollment list to actively receiving services, and this is your opportunity to sit with the agencies to get your questions answered!

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet with APD and DCF to get your questions answered!

| MARCH     |                           |                            |   |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Region    | Date                      | Time                       | Location  |
| CENTRAL   | Monday, March 9, 2026     | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm         | APD Orlando Office<br>400 W Robinson St., South Tower, Ste 430,<br>Orlando, FL 32801                                |
| CENTRAL   | Tuesday, March 10, 2026   | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm         | APD Wildwood Office<br>901 Industrial Drive, Suite 100<br>Wildwood, FL 34785  |
| CENTRAL   | Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm         | APD Lakeland Office<br>200 N. Kentucky Ave., Suite 432<br>Lakeland, FL 33801  |
| NORTHEAST | Thursday, March 12, 2026  | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm        | APD Jacksonville Office<br>3631 Hodges Blvd.<br>Jacksonville, FL 32224  |
| NORTHWEST | Thursday, March 5, 2026   | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm<br>CST | APD Pensacola Office<br>160 West Government Street Ste 412<br>Pensacola, FL 32502                                   |
| NORTHWEST | Friday, March 13, 2026    | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm<br>CST | APD Panama City Office<br>3309 Frankford Ave, Suite C<br>Panama City, FL 32405                                      |
| NORTHWEST | Thursday, March 19, 2026  | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm<br>EST | APD Tallahassee Office<br>3800 Esplanade Way, Suite 220<br>Tallahassee, FL 32399                                    |
| SOUTHEAST | Wednesday, March 4, 2026  | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm         | APD West Palm Beach Office<br>111 South Sapodilla Ave.<br>First Floor Conference Room,<br>West Palm Beach, FL 33401 |
| SOUTHERN  | Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm        | DCF Visionary Room - Rohde Building -<br>401 NW 2nd Ave, North Tower 1011<br>Miami, FL 33128                        |
| SUNCOAST  | Friday, March 20, 2026    | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm        | APD Tampa Office<br>1313 N. Tampa Street, Room 516<br>Tampa, FL 33602   |
| SUNCOAST  | Thursday, March 26, 2026  | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm        | APD Ft. Myers Office<br>2295 Victoria Ave., Room 140<br>Fort Myers, FL 33801  |

Numbers (as of 24 February):

- 6,000 letters have been mailed to individuals on the pre-enrollment list
  - 1,622 have said they were interested
  - 360 declined services
  - 706 enrolled
- 16,580 are currently on the pre-enrollment list

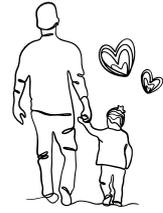
The APD “Roadmap to Family Resources” website has been officially launched and can be found here: <https://apd.myflorida.com/resources.htm>

A rated list of Brevard County Waiver Support Care Coordinators can be found here: <https://scorecard.apd.myflorida.com/Survey/WSCOverallScores>

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# Dad's Corner

by Guest Author Christopher Grabner



Happy March 2026, and welcome back to Dad's corner!

This year is proving even more challenging for America than last, and not in a good way. Last month I spoke about getting out there and engaging friends, neighbors, and state and local politicians in civil discourse. This month is a continuation of that same theme, but I would like to discuss something that I am seeing from friends, family members, as well as myself, as we see a dramatic realigning of our democratic republic. **Cognitive dissonance**, “the psychological conflict resulting from incongruous beliefs and attitudes held simultaneously” (Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. (Retrieved 2/27/2026 from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cognitive%20dissonance>).

Most of my adult life I considered myself fairly conservative, but with liberal tendencies. For example, I believe in a strong military (shocker as an Air Force retiree I know), while at the same time I think we should adopt universal healthcare. I have voted for democrats, republicans, and even NPAs. Over the past decade, I have found myself straddling the middle, feeling there is no party that I fit into, but feeling like I am trapped in the middle of two organizations that are veering extreme left and extreme right. Well, several things happened in my family, among them my children's ASD diagnoses, that shifted my political views exponentially, thus disrupting my schema type and causing me to become at odds with my views (cognitive dissonance enters the chat). I feel our fellow citizens are starting to sense this disruption in their own schema, but this may in fact be me projecting hope, because honestly, I do not have any quantifiable data to prove it.

So, what can I do? I can implore and urge those in my circle to speak up and let their voices be known. I feel a visceral call to action, to advocate, to ensure my voice is heard, and I pray that you do the same. As the saying goes, evil thrives when the good do nothing. We are at a point in the world where this is critical!

These days. I feel like the term “Raging Moderate” suits me and my feelings well. I believe Ronald Reagan said it best, that “freedom is never more than one generation from extinction”, but to be honest, I think he may have been slightly inaccurate. In my opinion, freedom is never more than a few election cycles away when the American public is asleep at the wheel. It terrifies me to draw parallels to 1930s Germany, but the parallels are there regardless.

“To say nothing is saying something. You must denounce things you are against, or one might believe that you support things you really do not.” – Germany Kent

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# Monthly Art Submission

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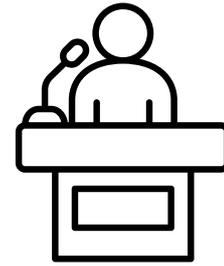


This month we continue to highlight art work submitted by 27-year old Omari Yearby, a member of the Angels Bridging Gaps Adult Program

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# Bill Buzz

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice Brevard



We are heading into the final weeks of the 2026 Florida Legislative Session and at the time of writing this article this is where we stand with tracked legislation.

As we approach the end of Session, bills that still show needed stops in different subcommittees become known as “dead” or “stalled,” due to the fact that the remaining time will focus on the budget.

Advocates working on a stalled or dead bill can still make a difference by educating legislators, building public awareness, and gathering support for reintroduction in a future session. Every conversation, story, or piece of data shared helps lay the groundwork to revive the bill or shape similar legislation down the line.

We will be briefing these slides, weekly, on our partner’s Friday Zoom call, We The People, and we will also be posting updated tracking on our Facebook page. (Link to sign up for the Zoom meetings, which will begin on 9 January, see the following: <https://www.flddadvocacy.org/join-the-movement>

You can also check back on our website, <https://onevoicecoalitionflorida.org/advocacy>, for updated information.

## 2026 DISABILITY BILL TRACKER



| BILL NUMBER                                    | SPONSOR  | 1ST COM  | 2ND COM  | 3RD COM   | 4TH COM    | NOTES   |
|--|--|----------|----------|-----------|------------|---|
| (S) SB 72 - IEPs<br>(H) HB 615                 | Senator Harrell<br>Representative Tendrich       | AW<br>FV | FV       | FV        | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Introduced<br>Bill awaiting second reading.  |
| (S) SB 1652 - Autism Definition<br>(H) HB 411  | Senator Burgess<br>Representative Maggard        | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A<br>N/A | Bill changed and added to HB 565 (APD).   |
| (S) SB 418 - Law Enf w/Autism<br>(H) HB 365    | Senator Jones<br>Representative Valdez           | FV<br>FV | FV<br>AW | FV        | N/A        | Bill in messages.<br>Bill awaiting second committee.  |
| (S) SB 478 - Music Therapy<br>(H) HB 829       | Senator Smith<br>Representative Eskamani         | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Read for the First Time<br>Bill Read for the First Time  |
| (S) SB 494 - Student Elopement<br>(H) HB 423   | Senator Arrington<br>Representative Eskamani     | AW<br>FV | AW       | N/A       | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Read for the First Time<br>Bill awaiting second committee.                                       |
| (S) SB 1560 - High Acuity Kids<br>(H) HB 475   | Senator Simon<br>Representative Salzman          | WD<br>FV | FV       | N/A       | N/A        | Bill withdrawn.<br>Bill added to the second reading calendar.   |
| (S) CS/SB 556 - HS Diploma<br>(H) CS/HB 453    | Senator Berman<br>Representative Gossett-Seidman | FV<br>FV | FV<br>FV | FV<br>N/A | N/A<br>N/A | Bill added to the Second Reading Calendar<br>Bill laid on the table                                   |
| (S) SB 586 - Repair Mobility Dev<br>(H) HB 487 | Senator Smith<br>Representative Eskamani         | AW<br>FV | FV       | N/A       | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Introduced<br>Bill added to Second Reading Calendar.   |
| (S) SB 794 - APD<br>(H) HB 565                 | Senator Jones<br>Representative Tant             | FV<br>FV | AW<br>FV | AW        | N/A<br>N/A | Bill awaiting second committee<br>Bill awaiting third committee                                       |
| (S) SB 1016 - Medicaid Working<br>(H) HB 915   | Senator Bradley<br>Representative Tant           | FV<br>FV | FV<br>FV | FV<br>FV  | N/A<br>N/A | Bill added to Second Reading Calendar<br>Bill added to Special Order Calendar/2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |

\*To find who your State Legislators are, please see the Florida House and Florida Senate websites.

# Bill Buzz, Part 2

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice  
Brevard

## 2026 DISABILITY BILL TRACKER



| BILL NUMBER   | SPONSOR                                       | 1ST COM  | 2ND COM  | 3RD COM   | 4TH COM    | NOTES   |
|---|---|----------|----------|-----------|------------|---|
| (S) SB 574 - SLPs<br>(H) HB 471                     | Senator Jones<br>Representative Chambliss     | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Introduced<br>Bill Read for the First Time   |
| (S) SB 186 - Student Health Epilepsy<br>(H) HB 1201 | Senator Garcia<br>Representative Mooney       | FV<br>FV | AW<br>FV | N/A<br>FV | N/A<br>N/A | Bill awaiting second committee<br>Bill placed on Special Order Calendar/2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| (S) SB 562 - Communication<br>(H) HB 533            | Senator Garcia<br>Representative Woodson      | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A        | Bill Introduced<br>Bill Read for the First Time   |
| (S) SB 568 - Managed Care<br>(H) HB 531             | Senator Harrell<br>Representative Barnaby     | AW<br>AW |          | N/A       | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Read for the First Time<br>Bill Read for the First Time                                    |
| (S) SB 1008 - Support K-12<br>(H) HB 857            | Senator Truenow<br>Representative Lopez       | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Introduced<br>Bill Read for the First Time   |
| (S) SB 1046 - Detect DD & ASD<br>(H) HB 969         | Senator Calatayud<br>Representative Tant      | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Introduced<br>Bill Read for the First Time   |
| (S) SB 1170 - Cameras in Class<br>(H) HB 859        | Senator Calatayud<br>Representative Chambliss | FV<br>FV | AW<br>FV | FV        | N/A<br>N/A | Bill awaiting second committee<br>Bill added to Special Order Calendar/2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading  |
| (S) SB 1302 - Ped Mental Health<br>(H) HB 1133      | Senator Rouson<br>Representative Tendrich     | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Introduced<br>Bill Read for the First Time   |
| (S) SB 1640 - Pilot Dental Med<br>(H) HB 1507       | Senator Smith<br>Representative Harris        | AW<br>AW |          |           | N/A<br>N/A | Bill Introduced<br>Bill Read for the First Time   |
| (S) SB 1570 - Missing Persons<br>(H) HB 1405        | Senator Gaetz<br>Representative Duggan        | FV<br>FV | AW<br>FV | AW        | N/A<br>N/A | Bill awaiting second committee.<br>Bill awaiting third committee                                |

\*To find who your State Legislators are, please see the Florida House and Florida Senate websites.

Florida’s Legislature has released competing budget proposals for the 2026–27 fiscal year, beginning a negotiation season ahead of the final General Appropriations Act. The House’s plan totals about \$113.6 billion, while the Senate’s proposal is roughly \$115 billion (about a \$1.4 Billion difference), reflecting differing priorities between the chambers.

In health care, the two plans diverge on managed care spending. The House budget includes a 1.3 percent “efficiency savings” reduction to Medicaid managed care plan payments, which is a cut of about \$200 Million, which has been described as a “performance-based holdback tied to health outcomes”.

The Senate’s budget summary also lays out major AHCA priorities, including nearly \$38 billion for Medicaid and related programs, provider rate increases, and targeted rural health investments. For the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), the Senate proposes about \$1.3 billion, including workforce development, provider rate increases, and IT investments.

|                              | Senate  | House   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Medicaid Rates</b>        | Broader provider rate increases                   | More limited increases                          |
| <b>Behavioral Health</b>     | Expanded crisis & treatment funding               | Maintains current levels with oversight focus   |
| <b>Long-Term Care</b>        | Increased HCBS & nursing home support             | Maintains funding with limited expansion        |
| <b>Workforce Development</b> | Expanded GME & rural incentives                   | Maintains core funding, limited new initiatives |
| <b>Public Health</b>         | New investments in maternal health & surveillance | Maintains existing programs                     |

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# OVCFL 2026 Legislative Platform



## ONE VOICE COALITION 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



### Health Care

- Protecting and Expanding Medicaid - Ensuring Floridians have access to quality, affordable health care.
- Standardize and update the legal definition of autism in the Florida Statutes.
- KidCare Rollout - ensure effective implementation of this benefit

Protect children with disabilities by ensuring the protection of OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs), OCR (Office of Civil Rights), and protecting IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.



### Education



### Collaboration

Bring collaboration and transparency to every aspect of policy affecting those with disabilities. It is imperative to ensure that our voices are heard when decisions are being made - Nothing about us without us!



[info@onevoicebrevard.com](mailto:info@onevoicebrevard.com)



[www.onevoicecoalitionflorida.org](http://www.onevoicecoalitionflorida.org)

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# Resources and Contact Information

- Brevard Autism Coalition; <https://brevardautismcoalition.com/>
- Angels Bridging Gaps; <https://angelsbridginggaps.org/>
- The Parker Foundation; <https://www.theparkerfoundation.com/>
- S.O.A.K.; <https://www.soakautism.com/>
- Down Syndrome Association of Brevard; <https://www.dsabrevard.org/>
- UCF CARD; <https://ucf-card.org/>
- Florida Developmental Disabilities Council; <https://www.fddc.org/>
- Project 10; <https://project10.info/>
- Vocational Rehabilitation; <https://www.rehabworks.org/contact/area3.html>
- FLAPSE; <https://apse.org/chapter/florida/>
- The Arc of Space Coast; <https://www.arcofsc.org/>
- Promise in Brevard; <https://promiseinbrevard.com/>
- Brevard Resource Center for Disability Solutions; <https://rcdsfl.org/>
- The Family Cafe; <https://familycafe.net>
- Family Liason Project; <https://familyliasonproject.com>
- Early Steps Space Coast; <https://spacecoastes.org>
- Family Care Council Area 7; <https://fccflorida.org/area-7-fcc.html>
- Bright Feats magazine
- Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Mobil Response Team 24/hour line (321) 213-0315
- Feeding Florida (food bank information) <https://www.feedingflorida.org/>
- Everything Brevard (resource website)  
<https://www.everythingbrevard.com/blog/guide-space-coast-food-pantries>



For more information or questions, please see our Facebook page.

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# Brevard County Delegation

**CONTACT US**  
**Brevard County Delegation**



Senator Debbie Mayfield  
District 19

📞 District Office (321) 409 - 2025  
Capital Office (850) 487 - 5019

✉️ [debbie.mayfield@flsenate.gov](mailto:debbie.mayfield@flsenate.gov)

🌐 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S19>

📍 900 East Strawbridge Avenue  
Room 408  
Melbourne, FL 32901



Senator Tom Wright  
District 8

📞 District Office (386) 304 - 7630  
Capital Office (850) 487 - 5008

✉️ [tom.wright@flsenate.gov](mailto:tom.wright@flsenate.gov)

🌐 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S8>

📍 4606 South Clyde Morris Boulevard  
Suite 2-J  
Port Orange, FL 32129

**CONTACT US**  
**Brevard County Delegation**



Rep. Chase Tramont  
District 30

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Capital Office (850) 717 - 5030

✉️ [chase.tramont@flhouse.gov](mailto:chase.tramont@flhouse.gov)

🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=4867&LegislativeTermId=91>

📍 Suite 201D  
5889 South Williamson Boulevard  
Port Orange, FL 32128-6110



Rep. Tyler Sirois  
District 31

📞 District Office (386) 304 - 7630  
Capital Office (850) 487 - 5008

✉️ [tyler.sirois@flhouse.gov](mailto:tyler.sirois@flhouse.gov)

🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=4748&LegislativeTermId=91>

📍 Suite 206  
260 North Tropical Trail  
Merritt Island, FL 32953-4806

**CONTACT US**  
**Brevard County Delegation**



Rep. Brian Hodgders  
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📞 District Office (321) 497 - 8200  
Capital Office (850) 717 - 5032

✉️ [brian.hodgers@flhouse.gov](mailto:brian.hodgers@flhouse.gov)

🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=5064&LegislativeTermId=91>

📍 Building B #202  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940-6605



Rep. Monique Miller  
District 33

📞 District Office (321) 497 - 8170  
Capital Office (850) 717 - 5033

✉️ [monique.miller@flhouse.gov](mailto:monique.miller@flhouse.gov)

🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/custom/details.aspx?MemberId=4913&LegislativeTermId=91>

📍 Suite 5  
2539 Palm Bay Road Northeast  
Palm Bay, FL 32905-3534

**CONTACT US**  
**Brevard County Delegation**



Rep. Robert Brackett  
District 34

📞 District Office (772) 365 - 9230  
Capital Office (850) 717 - 5034

✉️ [robert.brackett@flhouse.gov](mailto:robert.brackett@flhouse.gov)

🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=4870&LegislativeTermId=91>

📍 Suite B2-203  
1800 27th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960-0310



Sign up for my E-Newsletter!



**NEED HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY?**

For assistance with:

- Social Security
- The IRS
- Veterans Affairs
- Medicare
- Immigration/Passports

Call (321)-632-1776 or scan the QR code

**MIKE HARIDOPOLOS**  
PROTECT. IMPROVE. FULFILL.



# March Events

## Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disability Awareness Month

| 2026 |     |     |     |     |     | MARCH |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN  | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT   | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 1    | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 8    | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 15   | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 22   | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 29   | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

- Community Playdate for children 5 and under, sponsored by Early Steps. Held every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. March's event is **Thursday, 26 March**, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the Children's Center, 5650 Washington Avenue, Titusville. RSVP required. See flyer for additional details.
- Ice Cream Social sponsored by Angels Bridging Gaps and Happiness Horse Farm, **Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., at Happiness Horse Farm, 951 Happiness Ave. SW, Palm Bay. See flyer.
- Presented by Angels Bridging Gaps, Sip and Shop Food Trucks and Market, **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 4880 Stack Blvd, Suite E6, Melbourne. Check the flyer for additional information.
- Down Syndrome Association of Brevard presents two Music Therapy classes. Class 1 is open to ages 11 and over on Wednesdays, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closed group). Class 2 is open to ages 0-10 (open to siblings) on Thursdays, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. For more information, go to <https://dsabrevard.org/events/>
- Angels Bridging Gaps, Adult group, beginning 6 January. Events are scheduled from 11:00 am to 2 pm, Tuesday through Thursday. For more information, contact Angels Bridging Gaps at: <https://angelsbridginggaps.org/abgworks-program-calendar>
- Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) offers in-person or virtual sessions to learn about the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Comprehensive Managed Care (ICMC). One session left on **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. See Flyer for additional details.
- Bright Path Education offers Home Education Co Op for ages 5-12. Opened in January. See flyer for additional information.
- Art classes and workshops provided by Arts For All Studio, weekdays after school and evenings. Pre-registration is required. See flyer for additional details.
- UCF CARD and PALS co-sponsors Brevard Community Connect, at the Field of Dreams, 3053 Fell Rd West, Melbourne. This is a monthly event and RSVP is required. Event date TBD (probably end of March). Scan QR code on flyer for more info.
- Brevard Autism Coalition Presents the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual 2026 Spring Break Prevocational Adventure Camp. Registration opens **January 17<sup>th</sup>**. Camp dates are **March 23<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers are needed!! See flyer for additional information
- Neurodivergent Committee Multi-State Meeting, hosted by NAMI EC, **Wednesday, 25 March**, from 6-7 pm via Zoom. RSVP required. See flyer for details
- **Save the Date!** Brevard Autism Coalition presents Camp 2 Can 2026. Registration opens on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Camp dates are **June 8-12, June 15-19, June 22-26, July 6-10, July 13-17, and July 20-24**. See flyer for registration information.
- **Save the Date:** Waves of Acceptance, **Saturday, 25 April**, 10 - 4, Space Coast Field of Dreams, 3053 Fell Rd, West Melbourne. See flyer for more information.
- **Save the Date:** Florida Voices for Health 2026 Summit, Reclaiming Community in an Era of Change, **Tuesday May the 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May the 6<sup>th</sup>**, Lake Mary Events Center, 260 N. Country Club Rd, Lake Mary, FL.
- **Save the Date:** One Voice Helping Hands Conference, **Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne. Watch this space for more information.



# Event Flyers



### Brevard Autism Coalition Presents: 7th Annual 2026 Spring Break Prevocational Adventure Camp



- Camp Highlights:**
- Running every aspect of a simulated coffee shop titled "Adventure Coffee"
  - Filling out time sheets.
  - Following a break schedule.
  - Completing applications and job interviews daily.
  - Job related training with implementing the skills learned.
  - A variety of 5 job roles throughout the week (one each day).
  - Additional opportunities to learn about basic work-readiness skills.
  - Coaching to create a skills resume custom to each individual's strengths.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 17, 2026!!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
FOR MORE INFO AND UPDATES!



**March 23-27th, 2026**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**\$200 for the week**

# Event Flyers

**dsdb** DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF BREVARD

**Florida MUSIC THERAPY**

## MUSIC THERAPY

**Class 1:**  
MUSIC MEET UP AGES 11+  
WED. 5-6PM (CLOSED GROUP)

**Class 2:**  
LITTLE MELODIES AGES 0-10  
THURS. 4-4:45PM (OPEN TO SIBS)

**SATURDAY MARCH 14**  
**10AM - 2PM**

## FOOD TRUCKS & MARKET

**SHIP & SHOP**  
4980 STACH BLVD SUITE E6  
MELBOURNE, FL 32901  
INFO@SHIPANDSHOPFL.COM  
321-327-2124

**ABGworks Inc.**  
Enrichment • Employment • Resources  
Each One • Tack One

**WE WELCOME ALL NEURODIVERGENT ADULTS TO:**

## BREVARD COMMUNITY CONNECT

**FREE MONTHLY EVENT!**

**RSVP REQUIRED TO ATTEND:**

Snacks & Refreshments Available  
\*FOR PURCHASE\*

**02/27/2026**  
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

**FIELD OF DREAMS**  
3053 Fell Rd, West Melbourne, FL 32904

**What to Expect:**

- ✓ Conversation practice & Skill-building mini-lessons
- ✓ Games, discussions & community connection
- ✓ Supportive facilitators trained in ASD

**MINNESOTA** **ONE VOICE COALITION** **PALS** **Center for Autism and Related Disabilities** **HELP SPONSOR**

**Autism Coalition of Brevard**

## CAMP 2 CAN

**2026**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Registration opens on January 17, 2026

Summer day camp for individuals with Autism and related conditions

Register for one or more weeks. \$285 per week

| ACTIVITIES  | EVENT DATES  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building friendships</li> <li>• Learning and using social skills</li> <li>• Exploring nature</li> <li>• Sports and games</li> <li>• Learning various functional skills</li> <li>• Fieldtrips</li> <li>• Leisure activities</li> <li>• Arts and crafts</li> </ul> | June 8 - 12, 2026<br>June 15 - 19, 2026<br>June 22 - 26, 2026<br>July 6 - 10, 2026<br>July 13 - 17, 2026<br>July 20 - 24, 2026<br><br>*No camp during the week of June 29 - July 3 |

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
BrevardAutismCoalition@gmail.com  
www.brevardautismcoalition.com  
facebook.com/BrevardAutismCoalition

# Event Flyers



2026 SUMMIT  
FloridaVoices  
forHealth

**RECLAIMING  
COMMUNITY  
IN AN ERA OF  
CHANGE**

MAY 5 & 6, 2026  
Lake Mary Events Center  
260 N Country Club Rd, Lake Mary, FL



BRIGHT PATH EDUCATION  
IS NOW OFFERING:  
**A HOME EDUCATION  
CO-OP**

A small group environment for  
students with disabilities &  
learning differences

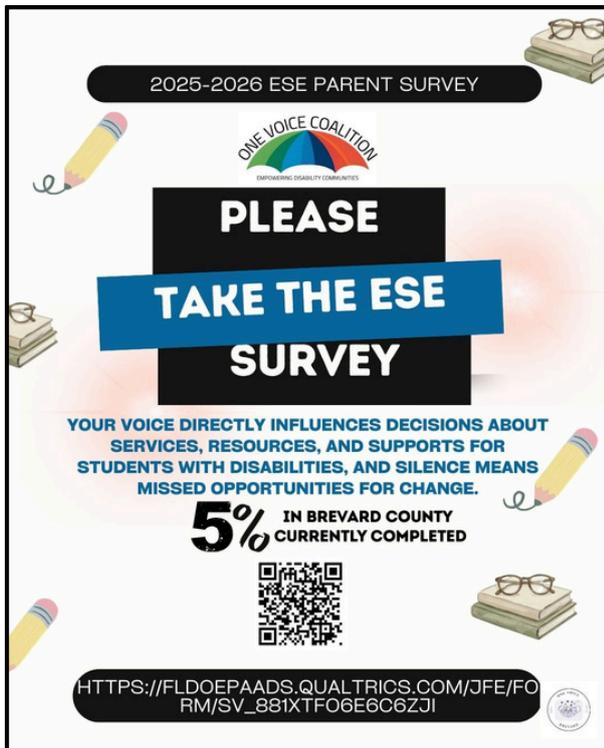
**DETAILS:**

- Academic & Social supports
- Monday- Thursday 8:00-2:00pm
- Fun Friday option available for those interested
- Accepting Scholarships & Private pay options
- 6:1 ratio
- Led by certified teachers & behavior technicians
- OT & Speech Language services can be contracted through local collaborative agencies

**OPENING  
IN  
JANUARY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
(321) 307-8240  
1240 Rockledge Blvd, Suite 6  
Rockledge, FL  
BrightPathEducation2025@gmail.com

**AGES  
5-12**



2025-2026 ESE PARENT SURVEY

ONE VOICE COALITION  
EMPOWERING DISABILITY COMMUNITIES

**PLEASE  
TAKE THE ESE  
SURVEY**

YOUR VOICE DIRECTLY INFLUENCES DECISIONS ABOUT  
SERVICES, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORTS FOR  
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AND SILENCE MEANS  
MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE.

**5%** IN BREVARD COUNTY  
CURRENTLY COMPLETED

[HTTPS://FLDOEPAADS.QUALTRICS.COM/JFE/FO  
RM/SV\\_881XTF06E6C6ZJI](https://fldoepaads.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_881XTF06E6C6ZJI)



**Arts for All STUDIO**  
ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS AT THE STUDIO  
STARTING in JANUARY

**Mondays**  
Afterschool Art 4:00-4:45pm  
Mixed Media Art Class for Kids ages 5 and Up  
Advanced After School Art 5:00-6:00pm  
Mixed Media Art Class for Kids ages 11 and Up

**Tuesdays**  
Meet the Masters 12:30-1:30pm  
Mixed Media Art Class with projects inspired by the masters and contemporary artists.

**Mixed Media Arts 1:30-2:30pm**  
Explore Different Mediums and increase skills to use them as an artist

**Wednesdays**  
Express Yourself (Teen Art Class) 7:00-8:30pm  
Teen art class for students to explore and improve art skills in various mediums

**Fridays**  
Able Artists Kids 9:30-10:15  
Multimedia exploratory art class for neurodivergent kids  
Able Artists Teens 10:15-11:00am  
Multimedia exploratory art class for neurodivergent Teens  
Graphic Design 11:30am-12noon  
Intro to Graphic Design taught by EFSC Professor in the Advanced Technologies Department  
Intro To Adobe for Design 12:30-2pm  
Software subscription required. Bring your own computer and learn intro level skills for Adobe Photoshop, Indesign and Illustrator. taught by EFSC Professor in the Advanced Technologies Department

More Details Coming Soon on our Website Calendar and Facebook Events  
Pre-registration is required \* Spaces are limited  
If you have any questions, feel free to call or text: Barbara Finneran at Arts for All Studio at 321- 749-9808.  
Or email us at atforallstudio@gmail.com

**ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS**

**Come Join the Creative Fun!**

# Event Flyers

**You're Invited**

Join us for our upcoming virtual or in-person information sessions to learn more about the Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Comprehensive Managed Care (ICMC) program.

DATE & TIME  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27  
5:30-7PM EST  
VIRTUAL

DATE & TIME  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18  
5:30-7PM EST  
IN-PERSON: PENSACOLA, FL

DATE & TIME  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24  
5:30-7PM EST  
VIRTUAL

Hosted by the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA), Florida Community Care (FCC), and Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (FAPD)



**AHCA** **ICMC**

## Neurodivergent Committee Multi-State Meeting

A collaborative space for advocates, leaders, and community members supporting neurodivergent adults across state lines.

This meeting supports ongoing neurodivergent advocacy efforts within NAMI-affiliated communities.

Hosted by: NAMI EC  
Facilitated by: Mandy Pinckley

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
Time: 6:00 – 7:00 PM (Eastern Time)  
Location: Zoom (Virtual)

**Who should attend:**  
Anyone interested in neurodivergent advocacy, peer support, collaboration, or cross-state initiatives. All perspectives welcome.

Please RSVP by emailing [advocatepinckley@gmail.com](mailto:advocatepinckley@gmail.com) to receive meeting updates and materials, including the Zoom link.




SAVE  
the  
DATE

AUGUST 29, 2026  
MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM  
625 E. HIBISCUS BLVD, MELBOURNE

One Voice Helping Hands Conference








EMPOWERING DISABILITY COMMUNITIES